

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

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O 131302Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7708

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 DUBLIN 0509

FOR EUR/NE AT OOB MARCH 15

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR OVIP (COSGRAVE, LIAM) US, EI

SUBJ: OFFICIAL VISIT TO US OF IRISH PRIME MINISTER COSGRAVE -
RESPONSE TO PRESIDENT'S TOAST AT WHITE HOUSE DINNER.

1. QUOTED BELOW IS PM COSGRAVE'S
RESPONSE TO PRESIDENT FORD'S TOAST AT DINNER MARCH 17. REMARKS
EMBARGOED UNTIL 2100 HOURS 3/17.

2. BEGIN QUOTE

I AM GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR YOUR KIND WORDS OF WELCOME. MY
WIFE AND I AND OUR COMPANIONS FROM IRELAND GREATLY APPRECIATE
THE WARMTH AND COURTESY WHICH YOU HAVE EXTENDED TO US THIS
EVENING. WE FEEL VERY MUCH AT HOME.

IN FACT, WE HAVE FELT COMPLETELY AT HOME SINCE OUR ARRIVAL
IN THE UNITED STATES. OUR AMERICAN FRIENDS HAVE FULLY LIVED
UP TO THEIR OLD TRADITIONS OF HOSPITALITY, HOWEVER, THIS
EVENING IS SOMETHING SPECIAL FOR US BECAUSE THIS IS THE DAY OF
ST. PATRICK, A DAY WHICH ALWAYS SERVES TO REMIND US IN A SPECIAL
WAY OF THE HAPPY RELATIONS WHICH EXIST BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES.
ST. PATRICK DIED A THOUSAND YEARS BEFORE THE DISCOVERY OF THE
NEW WORLD. YET HIS FEAST DAY IS CELEBRATED TODAY THROUGHOUT
THIS LAND AND NOT ONLY BY THOSE MILLIONS OF AMERICANS WHO
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ARE OF IRISH DESCENT. THIS IS A REMARKABLE PHENOMENON AND,

MAY I SAY, A HEART-WARMING ONE. IT IS, OF COURSE, MAINLY A TRIBUTE TO THE CONTRIBUTION MADE BY THE IRISH TO THE BUILDING OF THIS GREAT COUNTRY. IT IS A MARK OF WHAT THEY ACHIEVED HERE AND OF THE PLACE WHICH THEY WON FOR THEMSELVES IN AMERICAN LIFE.

ST. PATRICK HIMSELF WOULD NO DOUBT HAVE BEEN SURPRISED TO KNOW THAT HE WOULD, IN THE COURSE OF TIME, BECOME THE VERY SYMBOL OF THE FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN IRELAND AND A GREAT NEW COUNTRY BEYOND THE SEAS AS YET UNDISCOVERED. HIS ARDUOUS LABOURS IN IRELAND LEFT HIM LITTLE TIME FOR SUCH SPECULATIONS. IN FACT, SUCH WAS HIS ACTIVITY THAT MANY HISTORIANS NOW BELIEVE THAT THERE WERE TWO ST. PATRICKS, NOT ONE. PERHAPS WE SHOULD NOT PURSUE THIS FURTHER, MR. PRESIDENT. IT RAISES THE DELICATE QUESTION OF WHETHER WE SHOULD HAVE TWO ST. PATRICK'S DAYS EVERY YEAR.

I HAVE REFERRED TO THE DISCOVERY OF THE NEW WORLD. OF COURSE, WE IN IRELAND GIVE PUBLIC CREDIT FOR THIS TO COLUMBUS. AFTER ALL, ITALY IS A GOOD FRIEND AND PARTNER OF OURS IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND WE DO NOT WISH TO GIVE ANY OFFENCE. HOWEVER, IN THIS PRIVATE CIRCLE, I WOULD WISH TO CONFIDE TO YOU THAT THERE IS AN OLD IRISH TRADITION THAT OUR ST. BRENDAN - HE WAS CALLED ST. BRENDAN THE NAVIGATOR - LANDED IN AMERICA IN THE SIXTH CENTURY. THERE IS A MEDIEVAL TEXT WHICH BACKS UP THIS STORY. I AM NOT SAYING THAT I BELIEVE IT. HOWEVER, I REFUSE TO EXPRESS DISBELIEF. AFTER ALL, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN A VERY FITTING AND APPROPRIATE THING TO HAPPEN.

WHAT I LIKE PARTICULARLY ABOUT THE ST. BRENDAN STORY IS THAT THE STURDY SAINT IS HELD TO HAVE RETURNED TO IRELAND FROM AMERICA. CONSIDERING THE PRIMITIVE OPEN BOATS WHICH HE HAD AVAILABLE TO HIM IN THE SIXTH CENTURY, I THINK THAT HIS RETURN WAS INDEED A MARK OF HIS DEVOTION TO HIS NATIVE LAND. LET IT BE AN ENCOURAGEMENT TO ALL AMERICAN TOURISTS TO VISIT US IN THESE DAYS WHEN SAFER AND MORE COMFORTABLE TRANSPORTATION IS AVAILABLE.

EVEN IF WE CONCEDE COLUMBUS'S CLAIM, WE CAN SAY THAT, IN A CERTAIN SENSE, MANY THOUSANDS OF IRISHMEN WERE SUBSEQUENTLY TO DISCOVER AMERICA. CERTAINLY WILLIAMSBURG WHERE WE HAD THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HONOUR AND THE PLEASURE OF SPENDING LAST NIGHT SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN DISCOVERED VERY SOON BY THEM. BISHOP BERKELEY - THE PHILOSOPHER WHO HAD THE TROUBLE WITH THE CHERRY TREE IN TRINITY COLLEGE, DUBLIN - COULD SAY THAT THE TOWN WAS "ENTIRELY POPULATED BY OUR RACE IN 1734". I DO NOT MAKE THIS AS A CLAIM TO THAT EXQUISITE PLACE. I SIMPLY QUOTE IT TO SHOW THE GOOD TAST AND SENSE OF LOCATION OF MY COUNTRYMEN EVEN IN THOSE DIFFICULT DAYS.

AMERICA WAS A REAL DISCOVERY FOR THEM, COMING AS THEY DID FROM
CONDITIONS OF OPPRESSION AND DISTRESS AT HOME. THIS WAS
INDEED A NEW WORLD, A WORLD WHERE THEY WERE TO GAIN THEIR
FIRST EXPERIENCE OF FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY AND THEIR FIRST
CHANCE TO WORK OUT A DECENT WAY OF LIFE. IN THEIR THOUSANDS
AND TENS OF THOUSANDS THEY DISCOVERED A NEW EXISTENCE HERE AND
AS TIME WENT ON, MANY OF THEM - I NEED NOT RECITE THE LITANY
OF NAMES - WERE ABLE TO ATTAIN DISTINCTION IN EVERY SPHERE OF
LIFE IN A WAY THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN DENIED TO THEM IN THE OLD
COUNTRY. CHARLES STEWART PARNELL PUT IT WELL ALMOST 100 YEARS
AGO WHEN HE SAID "I HAVE FOUND A GREATER IRELAND HERE THAN I
HAVE LEFT BEHIND". I ALSO WONDERED WHY THERE WAS A CERTAIN

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FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7709

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FOR EUR/NE AT OOB MARCH 15

SIMILARITY BETWEEN THE HOUSE WHERE WE ARE DINING TO-NIGHT AND
THE HOUSE WHERE THE MINISTER AND I DO QUITE A LOT OF OUR WORK
WHEN WE ARE AT HOME. IT IS FITTING TO RECALL TONIGHT THAT
THIS HOUSE WAS DESIGNED BY AN IRISHMAN, HAMES HOBAN, AND THAT
IT WAS MODELLED ON LEINSTER HOUSE IN DUBLIN WHICH IS NOW THE
SEAT OF OUR PARLIAMENT. BOTH HOUSES, I AM GLAD TO SAY, SEEM
TO BE STANDING UP WELL TO THE STRAINS IMPOSED BY THE OPERATION OF
THE FREE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM THAT OUR TWO COUNTRIES SHARE. OUR
POLITICS IN IRELAND ARE CONDUCTED QUITE VIGOROUSLY. YOU
PROBABLY CAN APPRECIATE THIS, MR. PRESIDENT, SINCE, ACCORDING
TO WHAT I HEAR, IRISHMEN HAVE BEEN KNOWN TO TAKE SOME PART IN

POLITICS ON THIS SIDE OF THE ATLANTIC TOO. HOWEVER, LEINSTER HOUSE IS IN GOOD SHAPE. THIS WHITE HOUSE TOO, IS STANDING THE TEST OF TIME AND I GATHER THAT THERE IS NO SHORTAGE OF PEOPLE WHO WANT TO TAKE UP RESIDENCE HERE.

MR. PRESIDENT, OUR PLEASURE IN BEING HERE TONIGHT IS ENHANCED BY THE FACT THAT THIS IS YOUR BICENTENNIAL YEAR. THIS IS A TIMELY POINT AT WHICH TO LOOK BACK UPON AMERICA'S ACHIEVEMENTS. WE IN IRELAND RECALL THOSE OF OUR RACE WHO SETTLED HERE, THE PART THAT THEY PLAYED IN YOUR LIFE AND THE FACT THAT THE MEMORY OF THE OLD COUNTRY IS STILL WITH THEIR DESCENDANTS TODAY. WE MUST RECALL TOO THAT DURING OUR OWN PAST POLITICAL STRUGGLES AT HOME, AMERICA SYMBOLISED FOR US THE POLITICAL FREEDOM WHICH WE SOUGHT FOR OURSELVES. OUR MUTUAL DEVOTION TO FREEDOM CONSTITUTES A SOLID LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BOND BETWEEN THE TWO PEOPLES TODAY AND, IF THIS IS ALSO A POINT OF TIME FOR LOOKING FORWARD TO THE FUTURE, IT MUST BE OUR HOPE AND PRAYER THAT THE VALUES AND SYSTEMS WHICH BOTH PEOPLES CHERISH WILL PREVAIL AND PROSPER IN THE ADMITTEDLY DIFFICULT YEARS THAT LIE AHEAD.

IT IS A PLEASURE FOR ME TO BE ABLE TO SAY THAT THE OLD FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES IS REFLECTED TODAY IN PRACTICAL AND MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL ECONOMIC LINKS. AMERICAN INDUSTRY HAS CONTRIBUTED SUBSTANTIALLY TO OUR ECONOMY; IN TRADE AND TOURISM THERE HAS BEEN CONTINUING AND SATISFACTORY DEVELOPMENT. WE IN IRELAND LOOK FORWARD CONFIDENTLY TO FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN THESE FIELDS.

IN IRELAND WE WILL BE CELEBRATING YOUR BICENTENNIAL IN A VARIETY OF WAYS. IT IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR US TO DEMONSTRATE THE REGARD IN WHICH WE HOLD THE AMERICAN NATION. WE HOPE THAT THIS YEAR'S CELEBRATIONS WILL SERVE TO BRING HOME TO YOU THE RESPECT WHICH WE AND THE WORLD HAVE FOR YOUR GREAT ACHIEVEMENTS. IT IS SOMETIMES GOOD IN MOMENTS OF SELF QUESTIONING TO KNOW THAT YOU HAVE FRIENDS - AND THAT THEIR AFFECTION AND ADMIRATION FOR YOUR GREAT COUNTRY HAVE, IF ANYTHING, GROWN WITH THE YEARS.

MR. PRESIDENT, OUR GRANDCHILDREN WILL INHERIT THE RIGHT AND THE PRIVILEGE TO CELEBRATE YOUR TRICENTENNIAL. LET US HOPE THAT THESE HUNDRED YEARS TO COME WILL SEE A FULL REALISATION OF THE IDEALS WHICH INSPIRED YOUR FOUNDATION, THAT IT WILL BRING PEACE AND HAPPINESS TO OUR PEOPLES AND TO ALL PEOPLES AND THAT IT WILL SEE A FURTHER CONSOLIDATION OF THE CLOSE BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND IRELAND.

IN CONCLUSION, MR. PRESIDENT, I THINK I CAN PROPOSE NO BETTER TOAST THAN: "THE NEXT HUNDRED YEARS".

END QUOTE
CURLEY

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